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August 12, 2014

PRESS RELEASE-For Immediate Release

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Blaine County Woman Tests Positive for West Nile Virus, First Human Case in South Central Idaho

BLAINE COUNTY- The first confirmed human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in south central Idaho has been reported.

“The adult female, in her twenties, is recovering at home and was not hospitalized,” said Logan Hudson, South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) Nurse Manager. “This is a great reminder to the public that West Nile cases typically peak in mid-August or early September, just in time for students returning to school, early hunting season, and other late summer outdoor activities, so everyone should take extra precautions.”

Four out of five people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms. However, people with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash. Symptoms typically occur 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.

Public Health officials continue to remind individuals to take personal responsibility to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites. Remember to:

DRAIN any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

AVOID the outdoors at dawn and dusk.

DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

DEFEND yourself by using a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET (follow label directions).

MAKE SURE door and window screens are in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

For more information on West Nile, visit SCPHD's website at phd5.idaho.gov/westnile or visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/westnile.

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